

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Withdrawn) A system for flexing a web comprising:
a web handling apparatus including a first web handling assembly and a second web handling assembly and a gap therebetween;
a web passing through a web path, the web path including:
a first portion along the first web handling assembly, a second portion in the gap and a third portion along the second web handling assembly, wherein the second portion includes a radiused segment including a radius; and
means for controlling the radius of the radiused segment.
2. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1, wherein the first web handling assembly is a first roll assembly and the second web handling assembly is a second roll assembly.
3. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1, wherein the first web handling assembly is a first belt assembly and the second web handling assembly is a second belt assembly.
4. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1, wherein the means for controlling the radius comprises:
a sensor for sensing the position of the web in the gap, wherein the sensor is coupled to a controller that controls the relative speed of the first and second web handling assemblies.
5. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1, further including a rotating member surrounded by the radiused segment.
6. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1, further including means for holding the web against the first and second portions of the web path.

7. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 6, where in the means for holding is selected from the group consisting of a mechanical engagement means, air pressure means, electrostatic pinning means, adhesive means and vacuum means.

8. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 7, wherein the mechanical engagement means is a hook and loop assembly.

9. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1, wherein the means for controlling includes a sensor coupled to a controller, wherein the sensor sends a signal to the controller, the signal being proportional to the error in the position of the web in the gap.

10. (Withdrawn) A system for imparting a controlled strain to an indeterminate length web comprising:

a pair of co-rotating members with a gap therebetween;

means for forming a radius on the web when the web is in the gap between the co-rotating members.

11. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 10, wherein the pair of co-rotating members are roller assemblies.

12. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 10, wherein the pair of co-rotating members are belt assemblies.

13. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 10, wherein the means for forming the radius comprises:

means for controlling the speed of the co-rotating members relative to one another; and

means for sensing the web while the web is in the gap, wherein the means for sensing is electronically coupled to the means for controlling.

14. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 13, wherein one of the co-rotating members is a pacing roll and the other co-rotating member is a follower roll.

15. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 13, wherein the means for sensing the web is an optical sensor.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of inducing a plastic deformation in a web of indeterminate length, wherein the web has a first side and a second side, the method comprising:
creating a web path for a web of indeterminate length, the web path including a first portion, a second portion, and a third portion,

wherein the first portion is defined at least partially by a first rotating member, the second portion is defined at least partially by a second rotating member and the third portion is defined between the first rotating member and the second rotating member, wherein the first and second members are co-rotating members, the web path including the location where the first portion web initially contacts the first rotating member and the location where the second portion web leaves the second rotating member;

passing the web of indeterminate length through the web path, wherein there is no contact with the web along the web path on the second side of the web in the first, second, and third portions of the web path;

inducing a plastic strain in the web when the web is passed through the third portion of the web path, the third portion forming a radiused section in the web having an effective radius;

measuring the distance that the radiused section of the web extends into the third portion of the web path with a sensor to determine at least one of a measured position and a measured radius of the radiused section;

creating a signal based on at least one of the measured position and the measured radius

creating a signal based on the position of the radiused section in the third portion of the web path or the measured radius of the radiused section, either singly or in a combination thereof; and

controlling the effective radius based on the signal while the web is moving through the web path.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein creating the web path further includes creating the first portion defined at least partially by a first roller and creating the second portion defined at least partially by a second roller.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein creating the web path further includes creating the first portion defined at least partially by a first belt assembly and creating the second portion defined at least partially by a second belt assembly.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further including:
varying the radius of the web as it passes through the third portion of the web path based on a predetermined set of values.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said inducing a plastic strain includes inducing a plastic strain that varies as a function of the web in the machine direction.

21. (Withdrawn) A system for inducing a strain in a web comprising:
a machine having a web path:
means for inducing a plastic strain in the web, wherein the means does not make contact with one surface of the web.

22. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 21, wherein the means for inducing a plastic strain includes a pair of co-rotating members with a gap therebetween.

23. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 22, wherein the co-rotating members are selected from the group consisting of rollers and belts.